

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3117

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3166

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PT, ID

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE TIMOR

REF: (A) USUN 0880, (B) JAKARTA 3163, (C) JAKARTA 3164

1. FONDEPT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTOR IMRAD IDRIS ASKED ME IN MARCH 9 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON PT SITUATION, PARTICULARLY AS IT PERTAINS TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL. INDO-NESEAN UN MISSION HAD RECENTLY REPORTED WINSPEARE MADE ORAL REPORT TO WALDHEIM AND THAT WRITTEN REPORT WOULD BE CIRCULATED AMONG UNSC MEMBERS MARCH 8 (REF A). GOI BELIEVES MATTER MAY SOON BECOME ACTIVE IN UNSC ALTHOUGH IT HAS NO INFORMATION TO THIS EFFECT.

2. AS BACKGROUND IDRIS STATED THAT, WHEN TALKING WITH FONMIN MALIK (LATE JANUARY), WINSPEARE HAD SUGGESTED A MEETING OF ALL TIMOR PARTIES PLUS GOI AND GOP. MALIK TURNED DOWN PROPOSAL ON BASIS IT TOO LATE TO EXPECT PGET TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A MEETING. RECENTLY WALDHEIM MADE SIMILAR
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PROPOSAL TO WHICH, ON INSTRUCTIONS, AMB SANI REPLIED THAT GOI

WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO WINSPEARE'S MEETING WITH EACH OF THE PARTIES SEPARATELY.

3. LOOKING TOWARDS SC MEETING GOI SEES TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS - QUESTION OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PT AND QUESTION OF INDONESIAN PRESENCE. IDRIS PROVIDED COPIES OF PGET LETTER TO WINSPEARE RE FORMER (REF B) AND GOI POSITION ON "VOLUNTEERS" GIVEN WINSPEARE (REF C) CONCERNING LATTER. IDRIS STATED THAT, ALTHOUGH PGET MAY WISH TO EFFECT INTEGRATION INTO INDONESIA AS OUTLINED REF B, GOI REALIZES NECESSITY OF ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION WHICH ACCEPTED BY UN AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

4. IDRIS ASKED MY OPINION CONCERNING HANDLING, PARTICULARLY TIMING, OF AN EVENTUAL ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. I FIRST STATED THAT, AS GOI AWARE, US HAS NOT WISHED TO BECOME INVOLVED IN PT EXCEPT AS NECESSIATED BY UN, AND PARTICULARLY SC MEMBERSHIP. WE HOPE AVOID ANY SITUATION IN WHICH WE WOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO TAKE POSITION GOI FOUND DIFFICULT TO LIVE WITH. AT SAME TIME WE DID HAVE WIDER CONSIDERATIONS IN ANY UNSC ACTION. I SUGGESTED THAT ALL INVOLVED SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT ANY ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN WHICH UN INVOLVED WOULD DOUBTLESS FOCUS PRESS AND WORLD ATTENTION ON TIMOR FAR MORE THAN IS NOW THE CASE. SITUATION IN TIMOR WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO BEAR CLOSE SCRUTINY. IDRIS SAID GOI IS QUITE ALIVE TO THIS ASPECT, AND, SINCE "TIME IS ON OUR SIDE" HAS NO DESIRE TO EXPEDITE ANY SC ACTION OR FOLLOW-UP THEREON. IDRIS REMARKED THAT, AS FAR AS UN SUPPORT FOR INDONESIA GOES, RECENT CHANGE IN COMPOSITION OF SC IS UNFAVORABLE. HE NOTED GOI IS ALSO CONCERNED OVER POSITION ON TIMOR LIKELY TO BE TAKEN AT AUGUST NAC.

5. DURING CONVERSATION IDRIS EXPRESSED PARTICULAR APPRECIATION FOR COOPERATION GIVEN HIM AT UN BY AMB SHERER, WHO OLD COLLEAGUE FROM CONAKRY. HE INDICATED HE HOPED FOR CONTINUING CLOSE CONTACT BETWEEN US AND INDONESIAN UN DELEGATIONS.

6. IDRIS STATED THAT HE IS HAVING SIMILAR CONSULTATIONS WITH AUSTRALIANS, WHO FACE DIFFICULT DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEM OVER TIMOR.

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